

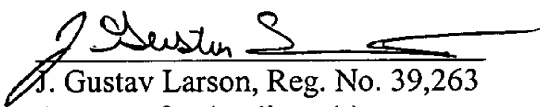
Furthermore, different classifications as recited by the Office are not in and of itself adequate grounds for restriction since the Office has historically allowed many applications containing (method, and apparatus) claims in one patent application.

The Applicants further disagree with the characterizations relied on by the Office to support distinctness of the groups.

In summary, Applicants have elected the claims of Group II for further prosecution and provisionally withdrawn the non-elected claims from consideration. Reconsideration and further prosecution on the merits of at least claims in Group II is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

4-5-02  
Date

  
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